

14 December 2015**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
CULTURAL SERVICES****NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE 2015:
14 – 16 OCTOBER 2015****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report back on Member and officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference which took place in Bournemouth between 14th and 16th October 2015.

Information and Advice**Background**

2. The County Council's representatives were Councillor Muriel Weisz, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee, Councillor Liz Plant, Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee, Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services and David Pearson, Corporate Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection.
3. This report describes the business of the event and an evaluation by the Council's representatives of its success, with particular reference to the business of the Council and the achievement of learning objectives. The report is supported by reference to the speeches and presentations which are on the conference website, hosted by the Local Government Association (LGA).

Purpose/Aim of the Event

4. The National Children and Adult Services Conference is the major annual national conference for adults and children's services.
5. This Conference is designed to provide an opportunity to further understand and get up to date information on proposals to deal with issues in adults and children's services.
6. Attendance at the Conference was with the following objectives:
 - understand the policies and strategies of the Government for adults and children's services

- receive information on best practice across the country
- hear from expert speakers and Government Ministers on a range of policy developments, key challenges and opportunities in adults and children's services.

Achievement of Objectives

7. The Conference had a full agenda of speeches, plenary sessions, workshops and exhibitions. It also provided opportunities for Members and officers to talk to colleagues across the country about the various issues and challenges facing adults and children's services.
8. The 2015 Conference, disappointingly, was not well attended by leading politicians, unlike previous events.
9. A large number of topics were covered and some of the key issues are summarised below.

Summary

10. The National Children and Adult Services Conference opened on Wednesday 14 October with speeches from Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, LGA Vice-Chair, with Isaac Samuels, service user and member of Coproduction Group, Think Local Act Personal, Alison O'Sullivan, President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), and Ray James, President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).
11. In her speech Alison announced the publication of the ADCS policy position paper on Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and touched on the impact of reductions to local authority budgets, social work reform, sector-led improvement and of course OFSTED and the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). She celebrated the importance of innovation across the sector and the need for further partnership working in the future delivery of public services which was something of a key theme throughout the Conference.
12. Sessions ran throughout the morning and into the afternoon from Education Question Time which looked at changes to the education system from academisation through to the increased safeguarding duties such as Prevent, to Practice leadership in social work: a new lever for better standards and standing, which considered social work reform and heard from principal social workers about their role. Other topics included keeping children safe at school and a look into the overlays of dealing with the impact of domestic abuse on both vulnerable children and adults. A speech from the Shadow Education Secretary, Lucy Powell MP, concluded the afternoon's plenary sessions. In her speech she touched on some of the challenges facing local authorities including the recruitment of high quality teachers, the shortage of school places and closing the attainment gap. She also talked about free schools and emphasised that there is no evidence that academisation in and of itself leads to improvement in schools.
13. On Thursday Children's Commissioner, Anne Longfield, outlined the key issues for children and families that she will be seeking cross-party support for, including

children in care, care leavers, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), CSE and CSA. Breakout sessions touched on radicalisation, adolescents and risk, championing children's social work, mental health and the early years. A real highlight of the day was a DfE session with two care leavers from the Bournemouth area.

14. The day ended with a series of evening fringe meetings.
15. A variety of sessions ran throughout the Friday morning including an in-depth look into Lincolnshire's approach to improving education, discussions on local responses to child sexual exploitation and a session on the Syrian resettlement programme in response to the current refugee crisis brought the conference to a close.
16. Speeches and presentations from the event will be posted onto the conference website when available.

Evaluation

17. Members and officers felt that the Conference was very effective in providing an opportunity to learn about the key issues in these areas of service and the future direction. The non-attendance by any education or children's Minister was disappointing.
18. Details of the speeches and presentations will be found at the link below.

www.adass.org.uk/ncasc-2015

Other Options Considered

19. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report on Member and officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference which took place in Bournemouth between 14th and 16th October 2015 be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

22. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 20/11/15)

23. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

National Children and Adult Services Conference 2015 – report to Policy Committee on 17 June 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0727